

Commodore's AGM Report – Year ending 24th August 2023

The aims and objectives of the Club shall be to promote and facilitate such on-water and social activities as shall be deemed likely to be of benefit and/or interest to the Membership, and to provide and maintain a clubhouse.

The past year has been a period of consolidation and completion, building on the many successes of the previous year, and those of Commodores and Management Committees before me. Reflecting on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats we identified in September 2021, much has been achieved by the Management Committee for your Club.

The successes of social events during 2021/22 were expanded on this year. Winter monthly club suppers with guest chefs, and member's talks, brought around four hundred attendees to the Commodore's lounge. Quizzes and Bingo added life to the Members' Bar, and all events significantly bolstered winter bar income. Other events we have hosted include the Mayor's swim, Club Open Day, and a Welsh Sea Rowing race. This summer we will be holding other waterside and social/musical events this summer, for all to enjoy.

The Members' bar is thriving, and we are likely to show surpluses for 5 months of this year rather than the traditional 3 months only. The direct debit system for membership payments, begun in September 2020, has improved the sad situation of membership subscriptions owed of 42% of members then, to 27% as of last September, and now to 8% in arrears. This has increased membership income significantly, importantly giving us more certainty in the Autumn to budget for improvements in your Club.

Investments this year have been many. The new Website, Web Cam, and Wind guru transmitter are visible, and there has been spending on invisible but essential IT to improve capacity and performance for recreational and business use of NBC systems. The Club house received maintenance and TLC, and the Commodore's lounge refurbishment to provide good facilities for events and meetings, is nearly complete, with new lighting, décor, and flooring. With just the members requests for improved acoustics to be completed shortly, with the newly arrived sound dampening panels to fit. The Sailing and Boating report details the valuable assets added to the waterside, and support given to local events.

Your Club incorporated April 1st, 2023, with just a little finishing left to do with the transfer of the building from the Trustees to NBC Ltd, to be effected shortly. Other important dull work such as policy writing, administrative rationalisation, and contract renewals means that your Club remains in good administrative shape.

My thanks go to the staff for all their hard work, and you the members for your support. This leaves me to say a massive heartfelt thank you to the Management Committee, who give their time voluntarily, whom without NBC cannot function, it has been a demanding year!

My final wish for the Club is that the incoming Management Committee will continue the level of safeguarding of your Club of those before them, whilst of course continuing its development, which I look forward to enjoying!

Niki South Commodore 24^t

Membership AGM Report - Year ending 25th August 2023

Membership Numbers.

The club continues to maintain its level of membership and currently has a membership of 1139. In July 2022 the membership stood at 1136. Over the year we have looked to improve the application process and the setting up of the Direct Debit mandate. By ensuring the majority of our membership are now on a Direct Debit mandate we now have a clearer view of membership numbers and revenue. Those members who were in arrears have been communicated with and if not rectified have been removed from our register.

Since September 2022 there are 116 new members including 40 members who have re-joined the club. The July 2023 membership includes new members some who applied for membership following a successful Open Day on the 10th of June this year.

Annual subscriptions.

We have made a modest increase to subscriptions this year, shown below, to ensure the Club is able to cover:

- a. the cost to manage and run the club at the current level of service provided to members,
- b. fund the future need to replace equipment, and
- c. pay for on-going maintenance of our building.

New Subscription Rates – September 2023

Members (including spouse and children under 18 yoa)	£65.00
Members 65+ *	£55.00
*Only those who were paid members and over 65 yoa as at 1 st September 2014	
Younger Members (18 to 25yoa)	£32.50

Method of Payment.

The Club administration has now successfully transferred 81% of members to the Direct Debit system.

There continues to be a small number of members (around 8%) who have allowed their subscriptions to fall in arrears. In line with the club rules, these members have not been able to access the facilities of the club until their subscriptions are up to date. Staff are now immediately alerted if a member, whose subscription is in arrears, presents a card and the member, cannot be served until such time the outstanding dues are paid.

Communicating with Members.

This year we successfully launched a new Newport Boat club website, and our plan is to use the website to inform and update both our membership and prospective members on boat club news and activities.

Also to help our Club Administration Manager we would ask all our membership to keep us updated on your email address and telephone numbers. **Please may we kindly request you to take a moment to check that the club has your current contact details and urgently let us know if there are any changes.**

Linda Daw
Membership Secretary July 24th 2023

Sailing & Boating Report 2023

After a cold spring with days of northerlies, boating got underway in early summer and it's great to see so many enjoying the special conditions and fabulous scenery here in north Pembrokeshire.

After an exhaustive review of options, we bought a new replacement engine for the largest XS Safety Boat after the original 12-year-old engine became uneconomic. Some hard budget choices meant the replacement of a Celtic longboat was unfortunately postponed; the youngest of our three is now 12 years old and the oldest 19. We bought two custom-made covers for the XS and one SeaRider to protect their tubes from UV light to extend their lives. It is important to encourage sailing at Newport, so NBC bought an old but serviceable Laser (now with new sails) which has recently been used by a keen young local sailor and will be available to other members when there is safety cover – typically during Club races - and with appropriate authorisation. Further, NBC is glad to lend the Club Optimists and other equipment to Dinas and Newport Regattas.

After the Rear-commodore resigned in March 2023, the S&B committee has met with appropriate frequency to plan safe boating activities with available volunteer resources. Despite awkward tides again, we have a programme of events in August found online on the website <https://www.newportboatclub.co.uk/racing>. It features the Sandra Thomas Passage race, an in-house NBC Dinas Head Rowing Race within the bay and the famous Hann Trophy. We hope as many NBC members as possible will take part in these events, and we look forward to a full house at the Laying Up Supper in the newly refurbished Commodores Lounge - traditionally for the Sailing and Boating fraternity at the end of the sailing season.

While rowing numbers early in 2023 seemed a little lower than last year, we have a core of enthusiastic oarsmen and women out in all weathers. 'Prudent hardiness' may have been the approach to the Dinas Head Challenge held within Newport Bay on 1st July due to keen westerlies and a meaningful swell round the headland. As we hoped, all 14 crews completed the course accompanied by a fleet of 6 safety boats, with many plaudits for the new format; we also drew valuable lessons learnt for the future. Well done to Pete Fletcher for organizing it.

On a positive note, the Open Day on 10th June was a success in spite of the weather. Good teamwork between Committee Members and volunteers meant we provided c. 28 attendees with taster sessions in rowing and sailing and excursions in the safety boats.

A big 'thank you' to the wide range of volunteers who give generously of their time, applying their skills and expertise to maintaining equipment and enabling safe and enjoyable water-borne activities here in Newport. We hope you agree that these aquatic options represent an important part of the value of Newport Boat Club membership – for all members who want to get involved.

Andrew Kenyon,

Sailing and Boating Secretary

24th July 2023

Treasurer's Report

Year ending 31st March 2023

Firstly, can I highlight the decision taken by the Management Committee to extend the financial year for the club by one month to 13 months from 28th February 2023 to 31st March 2023. This was necessary due to delays in finalising documentation for incorporation. This was also to avoid incurring additional fees for audit as we would have had to undertake an additional audit. I recommend the management committee to continue with the year-end at March 2023 to align with VAT and other returns *.

The club incorporated and became Newport Boat Club Limited on 1 April 2023.

I can report that income for the last year has grown by over £41k with increases in membership by £10k, surplus from the bar of £43k and, thanks to the hard work of Doug Williams, commission from food concessions of £13k. Previous year figures included COVID grants of £24k which were not repeated. The income from the bar continues to be the main source of revenue for the Club.

Our costs increased as well in the year overall from £133k to £165k. The biggest cost increases were in heating and lighting £2k, cleaning by £12k (due to increased costs in day-to-day cleaning, grass cutting, window cleaning and commercial waste removal), insurances and licences £4k and office expenses by £9k. However, the increase in office expenses is due entirely to expenditure on IT equipment – a new USB port system and a hand-held computer for ordering drinks, which the committee has chosen not to capitalize.

Our trading surplus before depreciation increased from £12k to £21k. After deducting depreciation, the surplus for the period was £11k.

I attach for ease of reference a table of key information for the last 5 years: -

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Trading Income	£187k	£146k	£114k	£140k	£132k
Expenditure	£166k	£134k	£88k	£129k	£130k
Trading Surplus	£21k	£12k	£26k	£11k	£2k
Depreciation	(£10k)	(£9k)	(£9k)	(£10k)	(£8k)
Surplus for Year	£11k	£3k	£17k	£1k	(£6k)

The club surplus is reasonable for the financial year and not too dissimilar to earlier years. This also is after buying a new engine, at a cost of £10k, for one of the club's safety craft. Whilst the club's cash position looks strong at the year-end, members should understand for large parts of the year, income generated in the summer months is necessary to support the club to remain open throughout the winter. The club also committed to renovation of the Commodore's Lounge and whilst the expenditure was agreed end October 22, due to supply and contractor delays, the works did not start until April 23. Management Committee continues to explore opportunities to bolster income in the quieter periods.

The current financial year is posing a number of challenges with inflationary increases in all areas of our operations – from bar supplies through to utilities. Management Committee continues to monitor these costs very closely ensuring value for money and minimal impact on members.

However, we are very fortunate that my predecessor as treasurer, Mike Prager, had the foresight to secure a fixed rate utilities contract until the end of 2024, which has benefitted the club.

I would like to thank Pritchards, the club's auditors, for their continued support and advice. Due to the retirement of our auditor, it is proposed that the club's audit is transferred to the partnership which has taken on the business of Pritchard & Co. Accordingly, the appointment of H D Pritchard & Co is recommended.

Report prepared by Simon Reeves prior to his resignation as Treasurer on 9 July 2023

*This item is carried forward for a decision by the directors elected at the 2023 AGM, as the current directors were not in a position to confirm the decision, becoming inquorate following the Treasurers resignation.